

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 VO-05 CIAE-00 FBIE-00
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HA-MBOVA
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-----016885 250438Z /61

R 240256Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 047802

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREM, CU, US

SUBJECT: EXIT ROUTES OF CUBAN REFUGEES

REF: A) 77 STATE 008117 (NOTAL) B) 77 HAVANA 411 (NOTAL)

1. FAMILIES OF SEVERAL CUBAN REFUGEES HAVE COMPLAINED TO DEPARTMENT THAT THEIR RELATIVES HAVE BEEN REQUIRED TO EXIT CUBA VIA SPAIN OR JAMAICA. DEPARTMENT IS ALSO AWARE OF ONE CASE IN WHICH AN AMERICAN CITIZEN COMING TO US FOR TEMPORARY VISIT WAS REPORTEDLY NOT ALLOWED TO TRAVEL ROUTE DESIRED. UPON INVESTIGATION IN ONE IV CASE (REF A), RELATIVES DISCOVERED THEY WERE GIVEN AUTHORIZATION TO DEPART THROUGH JAMAICA BECAUSE THEY HAD REQUESTED THAT ROUTE WHEN MAKING
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APPLICATION FOR EXIT PERMITS YEARS AGO.

2. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS SOURCE AND CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT IN REF B THAT CUBAN EMIGREES MAY TRAVEL TO US VIA ANY THIRD COUNTRY WHICH WILL PERMIT THEIR TRANSIT THROUGH ITS TERRITORY. WHILE EXITING THROUGH JAMAICA WOULD NOT SEEM TO PRESENT PROBLEM TO EITHER EMIGREES OR US GOVERNMENT,

ASSUMING IMMIGRANTS LANDED WITH US ENTRY DOCUMENTS.D, DEPART-
MENT IS CONCERNED OVER COST OF EXITING VIA SPAIN. NOT
ONLY IS THERE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE IN AIR FARES (\$885
HAVANA-MADRID-MIAMI AS COMPARED TO \$156 HAVANA-MERIDA-
MIAMI), EXPENSES FOR TEMPORARY LODGINGS ARE GREATER IN
SPAIN. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS SITUATION EXISTS DUE TO
GOC POLICY DECISION OR RESULTS SIMPLY FROM UNCORRECTED BLIP
IN SYSTEM. ONE OBVIOUS REASON FOR REQUIRING EXIT THROUGH
SPAIN IS COST OF FLIGHT. REFUGEES HAVE TOLD US THEY ARE
"ENCOURAGED" TO FLY CUBANA, AND ARE NOT IN FRAME OF MIND
TO DO ANYTHING WHICH IS NOT SUGGESTED.

3. REVENUE PRODUCING RATIONAL DOES NOT, HOWEVER, EXPLAIN
WHY AMCIT MENTIONED ABOVE WAS TOLD SHE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH
MONEY TO TRANSIT VENEZUELA TO VISIT HER RELATIVES, BUT HAD
TO TRANSIT PANAMA. PLEASE ADVISE DEPARTMENT OF POSSIBILITY
OF INCREASING FUNDS ON DEPOSIT WITH CUBANS OR OF RECEIVING
REFUNDS OF MONEY DEPOSITED YEARS BEFORE PRESENT ROUTES
WERE POSSIBLE.

4. FOR MEXICO AND KINGSTON. PLEASE CONFIRM THAT HOST
GOVERNMENTS WILL ALLOW CUBANS DOCUMENTED FOR ENTRY TO US
TO TRANSMIT TERRITORY. ALSO INFORM US OF PROCEDURE FOR
OBTAINING THESE VISAS AND ANY POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES.

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